

D-8244

Comtesse Jean Jacques

Switzerland

M.L. Francis

5.45 p.m.

11th. Dec. 1937

My name is Comtesse Jean Jacques, aged 29, Swiss nationality employed by Sonnerat Counter & Company, office situated at No.666 Ruechuen road. I am attached to the Transportation Department of the aforementioned firm and am in possession of Swiss passport No.336606/172, issued at Geneva on the 20th June 1938.

At 7 a.m. on the 1st-12th, Mr. Guenter instructed me to take charge of a motor launch "Lamia" which was tied up to the Customs Jetty, the Bund, and proceed down the Yangtze River to Bush Island. Mr. Guenter accompanied me on the launch and there were about 100 Chinese passengers as well as the crew on board.

The launch arrived at Bush Island outside Woosung at about 9.30 a.m. and took on board poultry and vegetables as well as another 90 passengers. My launch was flying the German flag, and at about 10.30 a.m. as same was passing Manchow Creek a Japanese tug flying the Japanese flag sounded the whistle and signalled for me to stop my launch. Owing to my launch being travelling at a fast rate of speed, I could not slow it down as quickly as was requested by the Japanese, with the result that some Japanese soldiers on board the tug opened fire with their rifles, and covered my launch with a machine gun. All the shots fired passed through cargo on board my launch, and none of the passengers were in anyway injured.

I stopped my launch alongside the Japanese tug, and asked why they had opened fire. Then a Japanese dressed in soldier's pants, leather jacket and army cap drew a pistol, and flourishing same ordered me in pidgin English to board his tug. I refused to do so, and he again threatening me with his pistol left his tug

and boarded my launch. This Japanese struck me about the chest with his fist, pulled my necktie, and shirt, then called some Japanese soldiers to pull me on board their tug. Some other Japanese soldiers were ordered to board my launch and stand guard.

I was taken on board the Japanese tug, the "Wing" (old pontoon) and then between 12 & 1.30, overtaken by my building. No explanation was given me, no questions were asked, and any question I asked was not answered. On arrival at 12 noon a Chinese whom the Japanese had also not seen, a survivor of one of the tugs of the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Corp., was remanded. I asked for the services of an interpreter but this was also refused. I was then left standing inside an office of the Government Ferry Building whilst the party of Japanese soldiers went to their lunch.

At about 1.30 p.m. I noticed a foreigner standing on the Bund and asked him to notify Mr. S. C. Soo that I was being detained by the Japanese military. About 15 minutes later a police car stopped in front of the pontoon, the foreign officers got out and looked around. I shouted to them and on observing me they walked towards the pontoon. They were seen by the Japanese who rushed at me, and pushed me towards the edge of the pontoon near the river. I caught hold of an iron grille which closes the entrance to the pontoon from the buna, but a soldier punched me on the back and head. He then called other soldiers to his assistance, and pulling out his sword pointed same at my right side. I let go my hold of the grille, and they pushed me onto the tug which had brought me from Kiaochow. I was then forced into a cabin.

The two arrived about the river Chu so it passed Ching-king-unit which is in front and on theootung side of The Shanghai Power Co., the two drew in alongside a jetty, and some of the Japanese soldiers boarded another launch, which was tied up to a jetty situated at this particular place, and arrested a German. He was forced to sign a document which he was being detained.

The two asked me to stop, whereupon I did. The soldiers had taken possession of my launch and I arrived at Kiaocheu, about 4 miles to the N.E. alongside a lighter which was about 100 yards from the bank, and alongside my own launch. I was then questioned by a Japanese who questioned me in the Chinese language, but as I could not understand him, one of my Chinese crew was brought forward by our launch, and as he could speak English, he acted as interpreter.

I was asked through the interpreter to produce the registration papers of the launch, I did. I then informed the Japanese that the launch was the property of Carlowitz & Company, 20.668 Szechuan road, and that verbal permission had been given us by the Japanese Consulate, and naval commanders to carry on business up and down the river, also that we were not to be interfered with. The Japanese then told me that I was not allowed to carry passengers on my launch, only cargo.

I was also asked why I did not stop my launch more quicker and answered that owing to the speed at which it was travelling, I could not bring the launch to a stop any quicker.

At about 4.15 p.m. I was allowed to go and told to board my launch and take same back to Shanghai, where I arrived at about

-Sheet 4-

650 police, & then reported the occurrence to my office, and went to central police station.

The other person who was arrested was still being detained when I was released.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

Erich Grueter

Switzerland

D.S.C. - Paris

6 p.m.

11th Dec. 1957

My name is Erich Grueter, aged 31, Swiss nationality. I am a partner of Schaffner & Grueter Company, office situated at 20, rue Mac-Mahon, Paris.

At about 7 a.m. on the 11th Dec., I boarded the motor launch "Main Kiangnan" which had left the customs dock, The Bund, under the charge of Captain Jean Jacques, who is attached to the transportation department of my office.

There were about 10 passengers or more, as well as cargo. The launch arrived at Chai Island off Hongkou about 8 a.m., where other passengers and cargo was taken on board. The launch which was flying the German flag, was just passing Wussohow Creek at 10.30 a.m. when a Japanese tug signalled for us to stop. As the launch on which I was travelling did not stop quick enough, some Japanese soldiers on the Japanese tug fired some shots at us with their rifles. All the shots passed through cargo, none of the passengers or horses being injured.

The launch then drew alongside the Japanese tug, and the man who seemed to be in charge flourished a pistol, also pointing same at the passengers on the launch in a threatening manner. I then went inside a cabin, and about 10 minutes later, I saw the Japanese tug moving away.

At about 3.30 p.m. the Japanese tug returned and I immediately returned to a cabin. About 15 minutes later the engine of the "Main Kiangnan" started and the launch moved off. I then went on deck where I met Mr. Jacques who informed me that he had been arrested, and detained by the Japanese military.

When I arrived at the customs jetty, I went to my office,

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and informed the German Consul re Mr. Jacques having told me about a German subject whom I knew to be named Mr. Stensslof having been arrested and detained by the Japanese on board a tug on the Shangpoo. Then reported the occurrence concerning our own launch to Central Police Station.

(Signed) Erich Guenther.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 1
S. I. REC'D. 7

Central Division,

REPORT

Date 11-12-37 19

Subject Foreigner in custody of Japanese military

Made by Insp. Brownrigg. Forwarded by

Sir,

At about 1.25 p.m. 11-12-37, the S.I. on Charge Room duty informed me that two Japanese officers were in the Charge Room and requested my attendance. On my arrival I ascertained the Senior of these officers to be Major Yamamoto of the Kitazuwa Detachement and that he wished to erect a barrier at the City Government Ferry pontoon. As the officer was not quite clear as to what he wished I suggested going down to the pontoon so that I could clearly understand what was wanted. Just as I was leaving the Charge Room a Foreigner (name unknown) came into same and reported that another Foreigner was being held captive on the City Government Ferry pontoon by Japanese Military.

On arrival at the above mentioned pontoon I went to the south end of same to enquire from the C.P.C. on duty if he knew anything about a Foreigner being arrested by the Japanese Military and at this time I heard a cry from the North end of the pontoon.

On turning in that direction I saw a Foreigner inside the locked grille door of the pontoon being hit and pushed by a Japanese Military man and then the same Japanese pulled his sword out and pushed it toward the Foreigner who was then dragged from sight.

On the arrival of Major Yamamoto I explained to him, through the medium of J.P.C. 146 what had happened. The Major, J.P.C. and myself then went to the gate of the pontoon and after sometime were admitted.

The J.P.C. and myself were told to wait whilst the Major went to make enquiries, after a short while the Major return-

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station,

REPORT

Date

19

Subject.....

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Made by.....

Forwarded by.....

German who was employed by the Japanese Military and who had been fighting with some person and was being questioned by the Japanese Military relative to same.

On being asked where the foreigner was then, the Major replied that he had just been taken away by the military. I returned to the station and informed the Senior Detective and also the D.O."A".

Inspector Brownrigg.

1660

Lardy Waits S.M.P. Report On Saturday "Kiangnan" Incident

Awaiting the report of the Shanghai Municipal Police on the alleged shooting at the launch Hsin Kiangnan by Japanese soldiers on Saturday, Mr. E. Laidy, Swiss consul-general investigating the facts of the case, stated the situation was unchanged this morning. The charge d'affaires for Switzerland was informed of the incident by Mr. J. J. Comtesse, young Swiss in charge of the launch which was carrying passengers and cargo in its regular River trading past Kiaochiao Creek when it was stopped.

It is understood that a Japanese tug hailed the passing launch and armed men aboard shot at the vessel flying the German flag when it failed to come to an immediate stop. No one was wounded by the bullets, but the Japanese then allegedly took Mr. Comtesse aboard their tug and brought him to the The Bund, on the City Government Ferry pontoon. Here Settlement Police was reportedly not allowed to get in touch with him, and he was stated to have been beaten by the Japanese and threatened with a drawn sword in the view of a number of passers-by. Later he was taken back to the Kiangnan outside Kiaochiao Creek and there released. Mr. Comtesse is understood to be the man who was involved in the Gullifirmod fraud case that came up in the Swiss Consular Court a few weeks ago.

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13/2

-C/H

SEARCHED	INDEXED
S. S. REGISTRY	No. S. S. D. 8244
Date 17/12/37	

Misc. 1002/37.

^{11/12/37}
Central
11th December 37.

1.

1.25 p.m. - 8p.m.

City Government Pontoon
Detective Office.

-: COMMENCEMENT IN CUSTODY OF JAPANESE
MILITARY.

At about 1.25 p.m. on the 11-12-37 Inspector Brownrigg was informed by the C.I. on duty, Central Station, that a foreigner was being detained at the City Government Ferry Pontoon by the Japanese Military Authorities.

On Inspector Brownrigg attending the aforementioned pontoon he heard a cry from the North end, and then observed a Foreigner who had been locked behind an iron grillic door of the pontoon, being struck and pushed about by a Japanese soldier, this soldier pulled out his sword threatening the foreigner who was then dragged inside out of sight.

Inspector Brownrigg explained to Major Yamamoto through the medium of S.P.C. 146 what had occurred, and accompanied by the Major and J.P.C. proceeded to the gate of the pontoon where they were admitted.

Inspector Brownrigg and the J.P.C. were told to wait whilst the Major went inside to make enquiries. A short time later the major returned and informed Insp't. Brownrigg that the foreigner in question was a German employed by the Japanese Military, and as he had been having an altercation with some other persons, he was being questioned by the Japanese Military regarding his conduct.

*Copy for Officer
Special Branch*



*D.C. S.B.
DBR. 12/12*

*S1 / C. 12
DBR. 12/12
10 DEC 1937*

1 (Sheet 2)

On Inspector Brownrigg taking the major where the foreigner had been moved to, the major replied that he had been taken away by the Military Authorities. Inspector Brownrigg then returned to the station and informed Mr. Robertson, S.C. "A", and Detective Insp't. Telfer.

Inquiries by the undersigned and S.S. Kobayashi ascertained the following from Sergeant Major Kohashi, City Government Ferry Pontoon.

At 1.30 p.m. on the 11-12-37, a foreigner was brought to the aforementioned pontoon by a Japanese military officer for enquiries, which, as far as he could understand, was for failing to stop when called upon to do so, by a Japanese military patrol on the Whangpoo River. Several shots were fired at the launch by the Japanese soldiers from their tug, and the foreigner's launch eventually stopped. The foreigner's launch was left at Jukong Wharf, and he himself was brought in for enquiries. However, as no one could interpret for the foreigner, he was taken by the Japanese to Kiaochow and placed on board his launch. No particulars re any Japanese soldiers having assaulted the foreigner could be ascertained.

At 5 p.m. the foreigner named Comteese Jean Jacques Swiss nationality, office situated at No.666 Szechuen

1945-2-27/28/29.

I. (Continued)

Answer, Mr. Guenter stated that when he first came to the
country he was a boatman, working on the river for launch
men. He said that when he had a launch, he would, at a reasonable
time, stop along the water to have a rest or to stop. Owing
to their usual travelling at a reasonable rate of speed, they
could stop, and at the time, he was informed that Japanese
soldiers who were on the opposite bank, opened fire with
their rifles. At the instant his launch came to a stand-
still, Mr. Guenter went into a cabin out of sight, but
the Japanese had orders to accompany the Japanese
soldiers who had come to the river to intercept boatmen,
whilst the Japanese did not shoot at him. After having
been questioned by the Japanese, he stated he took for a
considerable time, during which time he stated he was
questioned again and again. Thereafter, he was finally returned
to his launch about 8 p.m. after having been questioned
as to the launch registration papers, and the reason as to
why he did not stop, when requested by the Japanese
military authorities.

Statements have been taken from Mr. Jacques and Mr.
Guenter, copies of which are attached hereto.

Francis
D. S.

Gen. Secy. I/C.

M.W.C."N" Div.

B. L.